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3

ITALY.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPORTS.

TRADE OF
NAPLES AND DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR 1897.



FOREIGN OFFICE,
August, 1898.

No. 2173 Annual Series.

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPORTS.

*Law relating to "Foreign
Medical Men" practising in
Italy. p 14*

ITALY.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1897

ON THE

TRADE AND COMMERCE OF NAPLES AND
DISTRICT.

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS REPORT, Annual Series No. 2033.

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
AUGUST, 1898.*

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Reference to previous Report, Annual Series No. 2033.

Supplementary Report on the Trade and Commerce of the Consular District of Naples for the Year 1897

By MR. CONSUL NEVILLE-ROLFE.

(Received at Foreign Office, August 1, 1898.)

Although the month of December gave very unfavourable Italian trade results showing a very marked decline of exports, still the exchange in 1897. for the year shows business to have been much more in volume, and offers a good encouragement to merchants as well as to the Government to persevere in the tactics which have caused Italian goods a favourable reception in foreign countries. The imports of 1897 were 1,192,138,162 lire, or 11,965,474 lire more than in 1896; and the exports were 1,092,719,241 lire, or 40,621,429 lire more than in the preceding year. In round numbers, the increased imports amount to 12,000,000 lire, equal to 480,000*l.*, and the exports to 40,500,000 lire, equal to 1,620,000*l.* This does not include the precious metals in which there is a decline of 1,500,000 lire. Besides this there is the satisfactory result that the excess of imports over exports was only 99,500,000 lire, against 121,000,000 lire in 1896, and 149,000,000 lire in 1895.

Dividing these goods into four groups we have the following results to guide us in our estimate of the national progress:—

IMPORTS.

				Value.	
				1897.	Difference in 1896.
				Lire.	Lire.
Raw material for industries	..	..	..	469,895,955	+ 12,876,027
Worked up material	..	..	..	245,961,946	+ 31,454,033
Manufactured products	..	..	..	254,303,483	+ 5,482,238
Food stuffs	..	..	..	221,976,784	— 37,846,821
Total	..	..	..	1,192,138,168	+ 11,965,477

EXPORTS.

	Value.	
	1897.	Difference in 1896.
	Lire.	Lire.
Raw material for industries	194,474,025	+ 12,568,261
Worked up material	348,304,297	+ 15,691,044
Manufactured products	220,697,750	+ 3,894,278
Food stuffs	329,243,169	+ 8,467,715
Total	1,092,719,241	+ 40,621,298

Respecting the imports there is a large increase in the provision of raw and partly worked material for the use of the national factories. Coal shows an increase of 178,000 tons, raw hides 25,000 quintals, 49,000 tons of timber for building, 132,000 quintals of materials for dyeing and tanning, and 9,900 tons of minerals. The results on the minus side of the account amount to a comparatively small sum, consisting of cocoons of silk, raw cotton, scrap-iron and manure. These last may amount to about 12,000,000 lire (480,000*l.*) in value, and have, of course, been deducted in the figures given above.

The loss on the silk cocoons is more than equalised by the larger importation of 5,000 quintals of raw silk, and the falling-off in scrap-iron by the importation of 448,000 quintals extra of pig-iron, and if the importation of chemical manures has decreased, there has been a considerable increase in their primary factors as sulphates and other ingredients. A considerable quantity of sundry metals has been imported in the rough to be made up in this country.

There has been an increase of 5,000,000 lire in the importation of ready-made goods, but as the normal amount may be taken as 250,000,000 lire, this increase does not amount to a formidable rise.

Nearly 38,000,000 lire less of food stuffs were imported, and this is mainly due to the abundant harvest of 1896. The importation of coffee has slackened, as well as that of beasts and cheese.

Turning to exports, these have largely increased in all directions; indeed, ever since 1892 there has been a continuous improvement. Hemp has risen by 6,000,000 lire, and sulphur by 7,000,000 lire, and goods only partially worked, by 16,000,000 lire, which represents the employment of a considerable amount of Italian labour. Manufactured goods for export have made but a small increase, but it must be remembered that their use in Italy itself has extended very vastly, and the importation of such goods has receded remarkably.

The whole situation may fairly be considered satisfactorily

progressive. Italy is beginning to make things for herself and to appreciate her own goods.

It is unquestionable that hemp is the most remunerative of the agricultural products of Italy partly on account of its own value, and partly because the large amount of residuary matter is subsequently of great value to the farmer. Wherever land is suitable for its cultivation we are therefore sure to find it, and the Government statistics calculate the annual yield at 70,000 to 75,000 tons. That this calculation very much underestimates the quantity grown, seems tolerably certain for the returns from the province of Emilia alone give us 40,000 tons; Naples and Caserta 18,400: which would only leave 11,600 for the provinces of Bologna and Ferrara, which are notoriously the chief producers of the article. To take those statistics which concern this Consular district, the sum of 18,400 tons of produce is manifestly too small, for our export trade alone shows an average of 16,000 tons, which would only leave 2,400 tons to supply the large factories of Sarno and other places as well as the considerable quantities consumed by local rope walks and other small industries. In short, 20,000 tons would be a very moderate estimate of the average crop of this district.

The Italian
hemp trade.

The hemp of Bologna is especially noted for the great length of its fibre, which is due to the unusual height (13 feet) to which the plant grows in that region. It possesses particularly strong and tenacious properties. The Naples hemp coming from lower but thicker plants is more delicate, has the merit of greater fineness, and is particularly in request for the whiteness of its fibre. In fact, the different classifications which are called according to quality: homespun extra 1 and 2, and cordage 1 and 2, are made up specially according to their colour, and naturally also according to the fineness of their fibre. Heavy rain when the crop is cut and lying out to dry is one of the most serious misfortunes which can befall the farmer, as his produce loses whiteness of colour, and hence falls in quality.

There are a certain number of varieties of hemp all easily propagated and crossed, as the plant bears male flowers producing the pollen or fertilising powder, and the female from which the seed eventually comes. Hence in a region where cultivation of hemp is carried on on a large scale, the seed of one variety may easily become fertilised by the pollen of another. This leads to the crossing and fusion of kinds. In this district whether the hemp of Carmagnola, of Bologna, of Ordei, or Piosella or any other kind is sown, the plants after two or three generations lose their characteristic qualities, and it becomes necessary to import fresh seed from a district where only one kind is grown.

Agriculturists divide the varieties of hemp into two groups: "La Gigante" (the Giantess) of tough fibre, and the "Dwarf" Nana or Ortichina (small nettle) which is lacking in fibre and whose seed is specially used for the production of oil. But the difference between these two dwarf varieties soon disappears when they are subjected to a different cultivation from that to which they have been accustomed, and this without taking into con-

sideration the effect of propagation and crossing by pollen. In practice it is most difficult to distinguish one variety from another judging by the seed alone, and apropos of this, Dr. Todaro, of the agrarian station of Modena observes in a recent publication, that not even from the weight of the seed or from the best sample of fruit can one arrive at a sure conclusion seeing that from experiments made by him on various samples the average weight of 100 seeds of the giant hemp was 2.100 gr., and of 100 seeds of the dwarf hemp, 2.017 gr., a difference which is hardly perceptible. He cites a series of minute marks in which the two varieties differ from each other after the germination of the seed, and at the end notes how the dwarf hemp when sown in a pot and kept in a place purposely heated, flowers much sooner than the giant variety and on an average within a month of being sown. Special experiments should be made to test the difference in richness of oil obtainable from the different varieties in order to make quite sure that the dwarf hemp is in reality a better oil producer than the giant variety.

Foreign demand for Italian hemp has been regularly on the increase, although the price since 1875, when it was quoted at 1*l.* 18*s.* to 2*l.* per cwt., has been regularly on the decline. The cause of the fall in price is the ever increasing competition of jute hemp, largely cultivated in the East Indies, the hemp called manilla, manufactured from the *Musa Tentilis*, and the fibre textures of the ramie or *Bohemeria nivea* of China.

Besides this the diminution in sailing vessels and the consequent decrease in the demand for canvas and rope, for steamers use wire rope mainly, gave a great blow to the demand for hemp, although nothing up to the present moment has been found that can take its place in the manufacture of strong linen or running gear, for no plant surpasses it in the production of fibre of great length and tenacity. In spite of all these the export of hemp has always been on the increase as the following figures prove. A negligible quantity of flax and jute is included in the table:—

Period and Year.	Hemp.			
	Raw.	Dressed.	Cordage.	Spun.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1888-92	36,030	3,180	1,920	3,400
1893	35,050	2,670	1,550	3,230
1894	39,740	3,490	1,820	2,950
1895	47,590	3,210	2,150	3,040
1896	48,540	3,370	2,800	3,710
1897	57,540	3,120	3,010	2,840

This table shows that the commerce in Italian hemp has been regularly increasing since 1892, the increase in the last five years being about 60 per cent.

The following table shows the various countries to which

Italian hemp has been exported since 1888, the first four years being averaged, and the remainder entered singly:—

Country sent to—	1888-92.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Austria	3,610	3,190	4,560	3,570	3,550
Belgium	670	960	1,700	1,820	2,800
France	7,120	8,550	8,990	10,290	10,560
Germany	9,840	7,930	10,830	11,250	11,140
England	10,690	9,120	7,760	13,520	13,860
Spain	1,420	2,010	2,960	2,410	1,930
Switzerland ..	1,470	1,610	1,850	1,160	690
Other nations ..	1,210	1,680	1,690	3,240	4,010
Total	36,030	35,050	39,740	47,590	48,510

It is a little difficult, from want of statistics, to ascertain how much dressed cordage and spun hemp was exported by Italy in 1897. Of raw hemp she exported 70,000 tons. Now, when she exported 40,000 tons of raw material her total of raw and manufactured goods was calculated at 70,000. Adopting the same ratio the present production would reach 122,500, and it will hardly be overstating the case to put it at 100,000. It must further be taken into account that the specific gravity of cordage and the manufactured article generally is much greater than that of the raw material. The increase of the population from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 must also be taken into account.

During the past 10 years the cultivation of hemp has been gradually extended in the province of Terra di Lavoro, in some parts to a great extent, so much so that to-day the land between Capua and the sea, formerly given up to pasture and growing of corn, is now under hemp cultivation; the same applies to the land to the right of Volturno where not many years ago the names of the towns of Capua and Teano were almost unknown as hemp producing districts.

In the districts of Bologna and Ferrara, and in the frontier provinces of Emilia and Rome as well as in the lower part of Venice, the great increase in grants for reclaiming ground has transformed thousands of acres of marshes into arable land, of which a great part has been given up to the cultivation of hemp, and this increase of acreage is enough to account for the increased production.

In this connection it behoves Italy to consider whether she is not running some risk of a re-action, and of glutting a market which does not seem capable of indefinite expansion. So far there is no danger as the prices at the beginning of 1898 show no sign of any fall. It is true that during the first three months of the present year there was a reduction from 17,556 tons in the year 1897 to 11,429 tons in quantity exported. However, although this figure is less than that of 1896 for the same period by 12,582 tons it surpasses that of 1895 by 1,000 tons,

and is about equal to that of 1894. The falling-off of the quantity is also, perhaps, due to the market being very active during the latter months of the year 1897 which caused a consequent reduction of stocks.

To turn now to Russian competition. Russian hemp is almost always quoted at about 2s. per cwt. less than Italian on the principal foreign markets. The following table will show the amount of Russian hemp produced and exported:—

Year.	Produced.		Exported.
	Fibre.	Seed.	Fibre.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1891	100,400	(?)	57,100
1892	165,000	(?)	48,800
1893	252,400	260,000	45,400
1894	224,800	264,200	48,900
1895	247,500	393,900	..

It appears from the above table that the export of Russian hemp in spite of the apparent increase in its production, is rather on the decline, and on going further back than the year 1891 it will be found that the amount exported exceeded 60,000 tons. Hence it may be argued that Italian produce is taking the place of that of Russia on the different European markets, simply on account of its great superiority in quality. Russia finds the production of flax more profitable than hemp, and in some years she exports as much as 200,000 tons of flax in fibre, as well as seed to the same amount. In the meantime the above figures point out how necessary it is that Italy should devote her attention to produce goods of the best quality, as these always find a ready sale in foreign markets.

The question of the prizes or bounties given by the French Government for the cultivation of flax and hemp, and their influence on the Italian trade is one which should be considered. These prizes have existed since 1892, and the statistics prove that they have not prevented Italian export into France from increasing notably. Quite recently a new law enacted that the amount of 100,000*l.* was to be expended in prizes for the cultivation of flax and hemp. We, however, place little faith in the efficacy of such a measure.

One regrettable result of the increased cultivation of hemp has been the large increase of malaria in the districts where it is grown. The hemp is cut, its leaves stripped off it, and then it is placed in ponds and weighted with large stones. These ponds give out miasmatic exhalations to such an extent as to make their neighbourhood uninhabitable. Indeed, the plant has in all conditions a poisonous effluvium, for at the end of the last century when the British and Neapolitan armies were besieging

the French at San Elmo, severe sickness broke out among the British troops which was clearly traced to the fact that they had built their huts of hemp from the adjacent fields.

The following statistics and remarks on the South Italian oil trade. The oil trade. trade will be interesting at the present juncture :—

EXPORTS of Olive Oil from Gallipoli from January 1 to June 30 of the Years 1897-98.

To—						1897.	1898.
						Imperial Tuns.	Imperial Tuns.
England ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,247	93
Russia ..	..	..	..	..	..	204	633
Austria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malta ..	..	..	..	..	..	100	..
New York ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	5
Italian ports ..	..	..	..	..	..	607	432
Total						2,161	1,163
Stock at Gallipoli on June 30						3,750	1,800
Price per gallon of oil, 1st quality, on June 30						£ s. 31 10	£ s. 35 15
Exchange on London at 90 d/d						Lire c. 26 15	Lire c. 26 90

In taking a review of the last six months it may be pointed out that the failure of our last olive crop and the successful competition of Spain were the dominant factors of our market.

Exports of olive oil were miserably small, those to England Exports. practically nil; those to Northern Italy, though promising in the early months of the year, were soon arrested by Spanish competition; while those to Russia, though showing a pleasing recovery from last year's depression, were restricted to really well-burning oils which could not be found elsewhere, and for which high premiums over current rates were in many cases willingly paid.

Stocks of course, after the failure of last crop, remain unusually Stocks. low notwithstanding the smallness of exports, and it is feared they may not even be sufficient to carry us over the six or seven months which still separate us from the new oil, the more so as there is a constant drain on them at remunerative prices to supply the local wants of the surrounding districts.

Prices have been and still are very firm at a much higher level Prices. than might, at first sight, have appeared possible, and would indeed, probably, have ruled higher still, had not the bumper crop in Spain, at a time when ours failed, and scarcity prevailed elsewhere, placed that country in a position to command all foreign markets and exercise a decisive influence on our own. Then came the

war with the United States, and the consequent extraordinary appreciation of the premium on gold, which enabled Spanish growers to realise their oil to advantage, and Spanish exporters to offer it abroad at prices which, except for some special uses, defied competition. At the same time, want of confidence in the stability of things at home, and a wise appreciation of the advantage of having money safe in foreign lands contributed to swell the volume of exportation. How long this state of things may last it is impossible to foresee, but a cessation of hostilities, by sending down exchanges and restoring confidence, would certainly raise the price of Spanish oil considerably, while the strong probability that after so large a crop as the last the next one may prove poor, will naturally encourage holders to keep a firmer grip upon their remaining stocks.

Prospects.

In this country prospects for next crop, notwithstanding a deficiency apparent in some districts, are up to the present time satisfactory. Of course the usual risks, incidental to its progress towards maturity, must be reckoned with, but should all go well, as may be hoped, one-half to two-thirds of a full crop may confidently be expected.

In an ordinary year this might weigh heavily on our market, but the earliest moment when the new oil may become available is too distant, and our stocks are too insufficient in face of the many calls upon them, for prices of the ready article to be much affected even by the best possible prospects.

PRESENT Prices.

				Per Imperial Tun, f.o.b.	
				Ready Ship.	Spring.
				£ s.	£ s.
1st Gallipoli	..	..	..	35 15	32 10
1st Gioia	..	..	..	33 10	31 0

The Laviano
asphalt.

Mount Laviano is one of the principal peaks of the Apennines in the province of Salerno. It rises to a height of some 5,500 feet above the sea. It is of limestone, in many parts saturated by asphaltic bitumen, and in some places above the calcareous strata sandstone full of asphalt occurs, and in others there is another kind of sandstone called here molassa, which is also productive of the same commodity.

The Neapolitan Mining Company secured perpetual mining rights on July 21, 1874, and since then have produced large quantities of asphalt, and experts are of opinion that the quantity procurable is practically inexhaustible and obtainable in situations which will afford considerable advantages for carriage to the sea or to the railway, the nearest point of which is only 18 miles off. The quality of the product is of the first class, and capable of being used for any of the numerous purposes for which asphalt is

applicable. The company has gratifying testimonials from the Italian War Office and Admiralty, as well as from many engineers and architects, sanitary authorities, and analytical chemists. The establishment is worked by 600 horse water-power at Olevano, and their stores for local sales are at Naples. The present mine is at a height of 4,500 feet, and the products are carried by mules to the village of Laviano, whence they are taken in carts to the workshop at Olevano. When in full work the establishment can turn out 100 quintals per diem. From the factory there is a good road to the railway station at Contursi, whence the product can be taken to Naples or Salerno, and the cost of transport comes to about 7 fr. per quintal for the raw material. This cost of transport will be materially reduced by the erection of mechanical appliances. The company is not sufficiently strong to carry on their work on a scale large enough to develop the resources of the mine, and desires to sell its concession and plant. The matter seems worth looking into by those interested in the trade, and the more so as the presence of petroleum has been ascertained, though no estimate of its quality appears to have been made.

The use of explosives other than gunpowder caused a depression in the sulphur industry for many years, but lately there has been a boom in this mineral owing to its use in making chemical wood-pulp for paper-mills. This boom has inspired confidence in the owners of the mines of Oliveto Citra, in the province of Salerno. They consider themselves justified in inviting foreign capital to extend their undertaking, and while mining investments should not of course be entered upon without the necessary caution, the large amount of sulphur used here in agriculture forms in itself a considerable local market for the company's output.

The chemical analyses of the samples give from 60 to 75 per cent. of pure sulphur, which has been found to be very easily reducible to an impalpable powder.

The mines are the property of the Società Mineralogica Napoletana, and are situated near the village of Oliveto, about 10 kiloms. (6 miles) from the railway which leads from Eboli to Naples, a line which touches the important ports of Salerno, Torre Annunziata, and Naples.

The mine is rectangular, and lies between the Rivers Sele and Picoglio. The ground explored is about 4,000 by 500 metres in extent, and forms part of a large extinct volcano, and in fact when trenches are sunk sulphuretted steam is found to rise. The deep tubular vents existing on the surface are covered with sublimate of sulphur, and some of them, although they have cooled, develop sulphuric acid gas in large quantities mixed with carbonic acid gas and sulphuretted hydrogen. Close beneath the cultivated ground burnt volcanic matter is found mixed with sulphur, and the deeper the trench the more sulphur in proportion is laid bare.

Twelve experimental trenches of 50 or 60 metres in length, 12 to 15 metres in breadth, and 5 metres deep have been sunk in sundry parts of this vast superficies of 2,000,000 metres.

By means of these many banks of sulphurous deposit have

Sulphur
mines of
Oliveto Citra.

come to light, giving an average of 20 per cent. of useful products incrustated with sublimate of sulphur mixed with strata of sulphate of lime, yielding on an average 45 per cent., and besides these there are some banks in which sulphur is found at as high a percentage as 70.

Besides this absolutely mineral production it is found that if the sulphur mining is developed, a supply of sulphuric acid gas will be obtained, and judging from the geological structure of the ground it is a natural inference that the deeper we go the more abundant must the supply become.

Taking the stratum of sulphur as being 5 metres in thickness, we may calculate on possessing 10,000,000 cubic metres of mineral which will certainly yield 60 per cent.

The mine is situated between two rivers, and is surrounded by wooded country, thickly inhabited. Labour is abundant and cheap, carriage by land and sea is easy, and the mineral is free from arsenic, a most important matter where one great use of it is for dressing vines to neutralise the dire effects of peronospera and phylloxera.

The abattoir.

The foreign system of having a recognised slaughter-house for the whole town, as compared with our system of licensing individual slaughter-houses, has many obvious sanitary advantages, and the question of adopting the Continental plan has no doubt occurred to many of our towns at home. The abattoir at Naples stands on the outskirts of the town, and with its yards, ranges of sheds, and slaughter-houses, covers, perhaps, 2 acres of land. The scale of its operations will be understood from the following account of the business done in the past year. The animals slaughtered there were 231,473, comprising 19,083 bovine, 22,935 calves, 31,140 pigs, and 158,315 sheep.

The animals buried as being unfit for human food were 92 bovine, 27 sheep, and 113 pigs, and besides this 6,202 parts of animals condemned by the inspectors for various reasons were also buried. This goes far to show that a careful inspection is carried out, and for this purpose there can be nothing better than centralisation. The general attention to cleanliness, disposal of refuse, and so on, is further greatly facilitated, and the removal of so noxious a trade from the vicinity of dwelling-houses is in itself a point not to be overlooked. In the case of a city whose annual meat consumption amounts to nearly 500,000 head of cattle, it is obvious that the public health under our system is largely at the mercy of comparatively inexperienced persons, persons, moreover, whose interest it is to sell the meat they have slaughtered, whether it is fit for human food or not, whereas by the foreign system the cattle are so brought together that they can easily be submitted to the inspection of disinterested experts.

The revenue of the establishment last year amounted to 830,000 lire (33,200*l.*), and the business was conducted by the following officials:—

SALARIES of Abattoir Officials.

				Bonus.	Wages.
				Lire.	Lire.
Director (honorarium) ..	..	..	..	600	..
Sub-director .. ..	..	..	..	..	3,960
Inspector .. ..	..	..	..	..	3,000
2 clerks .. ..	..	..	..	720	2,160
1 clerk .. ..	..	..	..	180	600
1 watchman .. ..	..	..	..	360	1,080
2 watchmen .. ..	..	..	..	720	2,040
1 watchman .. ..	..	..	..	360	840
1 brander of meat .. ..	..	..	..	360	720
5 branders of meat .. ..	..	..	..	900	3,600
4 caretakers .. ..	..	..	..	..	2,880
1 messenger .. ..	..	..	..	100	800
1 carpenter .. ..	..	..	..	..	720
1 bricklayer .. ..	..	..	..	..	720
1 engine driver .. ..	..	..	..	..	1,920
1 stoker .. ..	..	..	..	..	720
4 veterinary surgeons .. ..	..	..	..	2,400	..
1 receiver .. ..	..	..	..	..	1,800
Collector of fees .. ..	..	..	..	180	..
12 sweepers .. ..	..	..	..	..	4,599
				6,880	32,159
Total .. ..	..	..	..	39,039	

In their report for 1897 the Naples Society for the Protection of Animals continues to show excellent results. The honorary director nearly lost his life last December at the hands of two ruffians who had been convicted of cruelty to their animals and punished for it. The attack being made from behind, and at night, with bludgeons, he was unable to identify his assailants, and the police have not been able to obtain evidence against them, though a reward of 5,000 lire was offered for such testimony as should lead to a conviction. One man was arrested on the charge but subsequently released.

The society has now 16 inspectors stationed in various parts of the city and suburbs, and as these have at last obtained the co-operation of the municipal police, the number of convictions has more than doubled, and in the past year reached the unprecedented figure of 5,399, as against 2,282 in 1896. In November, 1897, the Naples society, in common with the kindred society in Sicily, made a strong representation to the Government, and on January 13 of the present year the responsible Minister issued the following circular to the prefects of Italy:—

“The newspapers, especially abroad, often publish correspondence or articles complaining of the inhuman manner in which animals are treated in several parts of Italy, and not a few representations on this subject have been made to this Ministry by our societies for the protection of animals.

“As these complaints are not without foundation, and as the authorities should put a stop to a practice which is an evidence of

barbarous customs such as exist only in uncivilised countries, I request you to give strict orders to the Government police in your province not to neglect from now henceforward to prosecute according to law all persons guilty of ill-treating or overloading animals.

"Similar action should also be taken by the municipal police, please, therefore, give the necessary orders to the syndics and insist on their being carried out.

"I await an acknowledgment of this circular, and an assurance that the above instructions will be observed."

This is the most important move in the right direction which has ever taken place in Italy, and cannot fail to produce excellent results.

British medical men. The Italian law states that "Foreign physicians and surgeons with diplomas of any university or foreign medical school have the right to exercise their profession among all foreigners inhabiting the kingdom without even having to register their titles in the municipal office where they reside, but they must exhibit their diplomas when required to do so by the local authorities." Art. 23 Public Health Law, December 24, 1888.

The above amounts to this, namely, that a British medical man may attend strangers residing in or visiting Italy, but may not attend Italians unless he chooses to qualify as an Italian doctor. It is scarcely necessary to say that an Italian doctor is perfectly free to exercise his profession in England without let or hindrance, as much among British subjects as among foreigners. His only disabilities are that: (*a*) he cannot recover fees by legal process or sign certain certificates, (*b*) he cannot give medical evidence in courts of law; and (*c*) he may not hold certain public offices. Great facilities are given him if he wishes to obtain a British diploma, and if he does so he has every privilege which an Englishman enjoys, and can have his name placed on the Medical Register.

Many, and indeed most other countries, as the American Republics, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria, have adopted very restrictive measures with regard to foreign doctors.

The delegates of the medical associations at their meeting in Rome passed two resolutions unanimously to the following effect:—

1. That all foreign medical men who desire to practise in Italy must undergo all the examinations required by the present University regulations from the students of the Medico-chirurgical faculty by which they acquire the diploma for practice.

2. That a strict revision of the individual diplomas of the present foreign medical practitioners be made, and efficacious oversight be kept over them to see that they do not practise except among their own countrymen.

If these resolutions ever become law, it will make Italy a very difficult country for the British medical practitioner, as he must acquire sufficient knowledge of Italian to pass the medical and surgical examinations, which is no easy matter, and besides that,

he would probably have to spend a considerable time between his examinations. The second resolution would be practically retrospective, and the words "among his own countrymen" would narrow a man's practice down to a much lower level than the existing Act, which allows him to practice with the subjects or citizens of all the powers excepting Italy.

The sanitary delegates further enunciate the startling statement that there are 1,500 foreign medical men practising in Italy. The number of British doctors practising in Italy being 29, this would leave 1,471 for other nations! This is an absurd figure. Assuming that there are ten nationalities represented, and that all of them had as many representatives as Great Britain (which is notoriously not the case) we should then only reach 290.

In short, this alteration of the law would protect the native doctor, and drive out the foreigner, and be highly injurious to British interests in a country like Italy, which is so largely composed of health resorts.

The following facts should be borne in mind :—

1. The health resorts have been mainly created by British medical men, who have brought into them the most marvellous prosperity.

2. Banishing the British doctor means banishing the British invalid.

3. Usually in acute cases the doctor at home is in close and confidential communication with his colleague abroad, which in most cases he cannot be if he is of a different nationality.

4. Mistakes in symptoms must constantly occur if the patient and his doctor cannot converse in a language accurately known to both of them.

5. There is a great difference between British and foreign medical treatment.

The remedy would be either to make the diplomas of all proper medical schools of international validity, or so to amend our Medical Acts that we should be in the position to enforce reciprocity on the part of Italy for the great privileges allowed to Italian doctors practising in our Empire.

There is yet another medical grievance in Italy, and that is the way in which British doctors are assessed for income tax. A case recently came before this Consulate where the Syndic of a small neighbouring town, himself a doctor, caused his British colleague to receive a demand note for 230 lire for income tax. The aforesaid British doctor lives in an hotel in the town, and picks up an occasional fee, but it may certainly be predicated that his professional income cannot be sufficient to meet his expenses, which must be provided for out of his private means. These are of course not liable to the Italian income tax. His only resource is to pay and appeal; that is to say he must pay, and he can appeal or not as he chooses. The pecuniary result of an appeal may be easily anticipated. Even if an abatement is obtained its amount will be swallowed up in costs, and the Syndic will triumph over his colleague whom he looks upon as a poacher on his preserves.

Population of Naples. The total population of Naples as returned by the municipal authorities up to December 31, 1897, was 551,443, showing an increase of 5,583.

Births, marriages, and deaths. The births were 17,635 and the deaths 14,129, exclusive of 1,067 strangers, as will be seen by the annexed table. Deducting 1,051 deaths, not within the commune, the average death-rate per 1,000 residents is officially stated at 23·7 against 27·2 in the year 1896. The births show an average of 32 per 1,000 inhabitants and the marriages of 6·7 per 1,000.

British subjects. Six births, six marriages, and nine deaths were registered at the Consulate during the past year; of the deaths, two were seamen, who died in hospital, landed from their ships in serious condition; one was an infant of ten months, three were visitors, who had come out as invalids for their health, and the remaining two were residents, of whom one was 71 years of age. This low rate of mortality among the British residents is again a strong proof of the salubrity of the city.

THE subjoined Statement, compiled from the Municipal Returns, shows the Number of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in the City of Naples during the Year 1897.

Months.	Births.				Marriages.	Deaths.						
	Alive.		Still-born.			Residents.		Strangers.				
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.		Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.			
										Total.		
January	1,024	876	1,900	69	63	132	683	763	1,446	49	41	90
February	840	785	1,625	60	43	103	614	631	1,245	48	35	83
March	893	819	1,712	58	58	116	668	596	1,264	57	37	94
April	759	726	1,485	63	48	111	514	512	1,026	49	44	93
May	687	705	1,392	55	43	103	570	525	1,095	48	34	82
June	751	680	1,431	43	43	86	637	601	1,238	60	37	97
July	718	681	1,399	40	36	76	601	620	1,221	59	42	101
August	656	627	1,283	44	46	90	515	477	992	58	31	89
September	623	651	1,279	18	52	100	453	424	877	71	21	92
October	688	677	1,365	45	47	92	515	477	992	47	30	77
November	694	709	1,403	57	37	94	543	628	1,171	51	37	88
December	613	718	1,361	66	56	122	798	764	1,562	40	41	81
Total	8,931	8,654	17,635	648	582	1,230	7,111	7,018	14,129	637	430	1,067

Shipping and
navigation.

The total number of vessels of all nations that entered the port of Naples during the year 1897 was 6,137, measuring 2,945,659 tons. The number of British vessels that entered the port during the same period was 418, measuring (net registered tonnage) 719,524 tons, showing a decrease in the number of vessels of 20, and an increase in tonnage of 14,108 tons as compared with the preceeding year.

Annex A.—RETURN of all Shipping at the Port of Naples
during the Year 1897.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
British	4	295	414	719,229	418	719,524
Italian	3,565	152,417	1,522	1,168,197	5,087	1,320,614
French ... ..	...	...	127	134,515	127	134,515
German ... ..	...	...	213	541,573	213	541,573
Norwegian	2	201	34	23,362	36	23,563
Danish	2	206	15	12,474	17	12,680
Other nations ...	8	1,592	231	191,598	239	193,190
Total	3,581	154,711	2,556	2,790,948	6,137	2,945,659
„ for the year preceding ...	3,483	117,624	2,704	2,804,368	6,187	2,921,992

CLEARED.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
British	5	397	413	724,248	418	724,645
Italian	3,583	151,894	1,506	1,172,038	5,089	1,323,932
French ... ..	...	...	124	127,529	124	127,529
German ... ..	...	...	212	548,130	212	548,130
Norwegian	2	201	33	23,555	35	23,756
Danish	1	141	15	12,592	16	12,733
Other nations ...	10	2,323	228	189,800	238	192,123
Total	3,601	154,956	2,531	2,797,892	6,132	2,952,848
„ for the year preceding ...	3,593	119,788	2,705	2,816,837	6,298	2,936,625

RETURN of Principal Articles of Import to Naples during the Years 1897-96.

Articles.			1897.		1896.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
				£		£
Wine, oil and spirits	Gallons ...	...	2,829,644	86,399	2,051,568	75,672
Drugs, colonials and tobacco ...	Tons ...	...	3,216	172,405	4,528	290,571
Chemicals, medicines and per- fumery ... ..	" ...	...	10,193	143,162	9,503	132,396
Colours and dyes ... ..	" ...	...	6,274	102,845	3,983	67,239
Hemp, flax, and manufactures of	" ...	...	1,009	51,054	1,043	49,510
Cotton, and manufactures of ...	" ...	...	7,499	359,620	8,416	416,846
Wool " " ... ..	" ...	...	466	147,138	518	151,588
Silk " " ... ..	" ...	...	41	111,923	33	96,777
Timber and straw ... ..	" ...	...	15,977	63,268	14,278	53,602
Paper and books ... ..	" ...	...	1,659	34,020	1,301	31,562
Curriery ... ..	" ...	...	2,945	263,749	3,343	285,842
Metals ... ..	" ...	...	27,083	345,008	26,256	322,366
Stone, earthenware and glass ...	" ...	...	341,081	346,299	334,504	311,260
Cereals ... ..	" ...	...	62,269	428,472	122,154	742,812
Live animals and animal produce	" ...	...	8,637	263,676	8,092	260,213
Sundries ... ..	" ...	...	115	42,204	126	47,835
Precious metal and specie ...	" ...	...	10	82,838	8	67,351
Total ... ..	...	...	...	3,043,880	...	3,411,442

RETURN of Principal Articles of Export from Naples during the Years 1897-96.

Articles.			1897.		1896.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
				£		£
Wine, oil and spirits	Gallons ...	...	2,599,744	152,206	2,073,330	141,564
Drugs, colonials and tobacco ...	Tons ...	...	607	49,623	322	26,142
Chemicals, medicines and per- fumery ... ..	" ...	...	3,865	147,747	3,712	150,388
Colours and dyes ... ..	" ...	...	29	5,053	22	5,351
Hemp, flax, and manufactures of	" ...	...	13,869	462,736	13,912	448,238
Cotton, and manufactures of ...	" ...	...	46	4,378	43	6,830
Wool " " ... ..	" ...	...	645	46,769	444	56,448
Silk " " ... ..	" ...	...	1	4,584	1	4,550
Timber and straw ... ..	" ...	...	1,436	15,389	1,439	12,595
Paper and books ... ..	" ...	...	3,64	45,693	3,289	41,260
Curriery ... ..	" ...	...	...	86,061	498	86,057
Metals ... ..	" ...	...	364	40,357	299	36,583
Stone, earthenware and glass ...	" ...	...	2,905	8,996	4,583	12,804
Cereals ... ..	" ...	...	32,561	379,258	23,165	341,720
Live animals and animal produce	" ...	...	1,675	445,250	1,205	439,474
Sundries ... ..	" ...	...	19	26,891	18	33,557
Precious metal and specie ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	...	...	...	1,920,996	...	1,843,561

TABLE showing Total Value of all Articles Exported from and Imported to Naples from and to Foreign Countries during the Years 1897-96.

Country.	Exports.		Imports.	
	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Great Britain	349,594	389,819	954,023	937,649
France	450,593	470,620	383,623	351,427
United States	310,972	319,374	387,779	532,526
South America	180,777	141,026	61,856	60,561
Egypt	140,921	87,314	44,429	39,932
Belgium	126,251	107,001	59,680	53,362
Austria	127,836	90,439	257,066	236,907
Germany	60,222	64,629	285,241	298,134
Africa	43,263	14,335	38,227	6,344
Turkey	50,208	25,364	17,845	62,833
Spain	15,208	15,507	26,338	20,044
Holland	18,745	22,186	28,891	81,884
Greece	7,562	4,236	26,077	21,140
Switzerland	3,094	3,998	23,367	24,082
Russia	11,203	9,609	306,818	317,903
Roumania	191	903	49,009	266,657
Sweden and Norway ..	7,260	6,753	62,344	54,153
Other countries	17,096	70,448	31,267	45,904
Total	1,920,996	1,843,561	3,043,880	3,411,442

Shipbuilding.

Messrs. Hawthorn-Guppy have completed during the year 1897 the trials of the machinery (18,000 horse-power) of the Argentine cruiser "General San Martin," which vessel has since safely arrived at her destination. The mooring trials of machinery of the sister vessel, the armed cruiser "Vettor Pisani," have been made, and it only requires the completion of the vessel to proceed with the sea trials. The machinery (13,500 horse-power) of the "Emanuele Filiberto" battleship has been completed in the workshop and is being placed on board. As no new orders, excepting for four large double-ended cylindrical boilers for the armed cruiser "Giovanni Bausan" and some small boilers for a private firm, have been received during the year, many workmen have had consequently to be dismissed.

The firm has been experimenting with water-tube boilers, and very successfully with two Greeno boilers on board a torpedo boat; they have also had some very satisfactory results of other types on land of boilers made for experimental purposes.

SALERNO.

Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Emilio Panzi reports as follows:—

The harbour works have made distinct progress, and a fine landing-place has been erected on the quay, thus greatly facilitating

commercial enterprise. It has long been much wanted, and the city of Salerno is highly to be congratulated on its accomplishment.

The new road leading from Amalfi to Sorrento, a triumph of engineering talent, has proved as great a success commercially as it is acknowledged to be from the scientific point of view. It has opened up a rich country, and has so facilitated communications that the number of travellers to the coast villages and towns on the Bay of Salerno has very largely increased, and has become a very important addition to the wealth of these communities.

The fruit trade has not rallied either in the district of Amalfi or in that of Calabria, but cereals, and especially wheat, have sold at good prices. Wines have been both deficient in quantity and very low in price. This has caused a regrettable amount of poverty among the labouring classes. The rupture of trade relations with France some years ago was a blow to our wine trade, from which it has not yet recovered. Vegetables have commanded excellent prices owing to the increased export. Potatoes have been in great demand, and have been bought up by speculators for foreign markets in very large quantities. Coal and wheat have been our only imports in the past year. The use of electric light has spread consistently and regularly in the past year; the public health has been excellent, and there has been an absence of serious crime throughout the district.

GIOIA-TAURO.

Mr. Vice-Consul Briglia reports that the phylloxera has spread alarmingly in his district, and the produce of wine has fallen to less than half, and will be quite insufficient even for local consumption.

Table A.—SHOWING Movement of the Shipping at Gioia Tauro during the Year 1897.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
Danish ... ..	...	...	3	2,675	3	2,675
Italian	372	17,100	85	29,857	457	46,957
Total	372	17,100	88	32,532	460	49,632

Table B.—PRINCIPAL Articles of Export from Gioia Tauro.

Articles.	1897.		1896.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£	Tons.	£
Olive oil for abroad ..	5,730	206,280	4,485	134,550
„ for Italy ..	4,000	144,000	2,315	69,450
Wood and charcoal				
for abroad	3,700	4,128	3,500	3,985
Red wine for Italy ..	950	7,500	1,900	15,000
Total	14,380	361,908	12,200	222,985

There are no direct imports from abroad to Gioia Tauro. These all pass through Messina.

Table C.—SHOWING the Total Value of all Imports to and Exports from Gioia Tauro.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.
	£	£	£	£
Gioia Tauro	361,908	222,985	..	..

No change has taken place in the oil market or prospects since the special report published in 1897 (No. 438, Miscellaneous Series).

BARLETTA.

Mr. Vice-Consul Reichlin reports as follows:—

The total imports in the year 1897 amounted to 3,968 tons exclusive of coals which reached 15,960 tons, namely 13,829 of gas, steam coals and other fuel from the United Kingdom, and 2,131 tons of small coals (lignite) from the Austrian coasts. The other principal articles of import are wood, spirit, and mineral oils amounting to 1,507 tons and coming from Russia and the United States.

There has been a notable increase in exports as compared with the preceding year. This has been especially due to the expansion of the wine trade, the export of wine having been as much as 293,340 hectolitres valued at 6,500,000 lire, against 119,770 hectolitres exported in 1896. The reason of this increase is the exceptionally good quality and quantity of the vintage in this district in the past year. Austria-Hungary takes the bulk of

our wine, which is in great favour there on account of its excellent flavour and high alcoholic strength.

The following table shows the export of wine for the year:—

Country.					Quantity.
					Hectolitres.
Austria-Hungary	..	..	..	..	201,682
South America	..	..	..	..	18,989
Germany	..	..	..	..	13,752
Switzerland	..	..	..	..	53,411
Other countries	..	..	..	..	5,506
Total	..	..	..	..	293,340

The export of tartaric products is more than double that of last year, and the product finds its market chiefly in Austria.

The crops of fruit and olives have been very satisfactory, but grain has been scarce and dear. 800 tons of beans were exported to the United Kingdom.

The money market has shown an easier tendency.

The total number of ships of all nations was 718, of the total tonnage of 310,179 tons. The number of British steamers in 1897 was seven of 7,585 tons burden as against six of 6,893 tons in 1896.

RETURN of Principal Articles of Import into the Port of Barletta during the Year 1897.

Articles.					Quantity.	Value.
					Tons.	Lire.
Wood, board, and planks	..	..	..	..	1,911	153,000
Coal	..	..	..	..	15,960	367,000
Sundries	..	..	..	..	1,952	390,000
Wine casks (1,021)	..	..	..	..	105	36,000
Total	..	..	..	..	19,928	946,000

RETURN of Principal Articles of Export from the Port of Barletta during the Year 1897.

Articles.					Quantity.	Value.
					Tons.	Lire.
Wine	..	..	..	..	29,334	6,560,000
Tartars and tartaric acid	..	..	..	..	488	500,000
Brandy and spirits	..	..	..	..	27	28,000
Olive oil	..	..	..	..	460	506,000
Wheat, beans	..	..	..	..	935	145,000
Wine casks (2,340)	..	..	..	..	240	81,000
Sundries	..	..	..	..	1,350	189,000
Total	..	..	..	..	32,834	8,009,000

The following is the table of all shipping at this port during the year 1897:—

VESSELS ENTERED.

Nationality.	Number of Vessels.		Tonnage.
	Sailing.	Steam.	
British .. .. .	..	7	7,585
Italian	223	..	23,727
" .. .. .	..	393	222,479
Austrian	3	..	59
" .. .. .	..	75	38,193
German .. .. .	..	16	18,095
Other countries.. .. .	1	..	41
Total	227	491	310,179

VESSELS CLEARED.

Nationality.	Number of Vessels.		Tonnage.
	Sailing.	Steam.	
British .. .. .	..	7	7,585
Italian	223	..	23,727
" .. .. .	..	393	222,479
Austrian	3	..	59
" .. .. .	..	75	38,193
German .. .. .	..	16	18,095
Other countries	1	..	41
Total	227	491	310,179

THE Municipal Statistics for 1897.

Description.					Number.
Number of inhabitants on December 31, 1897 ..					42,755
Births during the year 1897					1,705
Deaths					955
Marriages					395
Immigrants					390
Emigrants					333

BARI.

Mr. Vice-Consul Berner reports as follows:—

Financial position.

During the year 1897 the financial position of this Vice-Consular district and the whole province has remained almost unaltered, the improvement noticed in the previous year having con-

tinued, thanks to the good demand for agricultural products and the remunerative prices obtained for the same.

Owing to unfavourable climatic conditions early in the year, ^{Crops.} the crops of almost all products fell short of an average yield by one-fourth to a third, save in the case of vegetables, potatoes, &c., which turned out abundant. The quality, however, was good all round, especially of grain, wine, almonds, and vegetables.

The imports amounted to 1,122,940*l.* against 1,142,380*l.* in the ^{Imports and exports generally.} previous year, thus showing a decrease of 19,440*l.*

The exports were equal to 2,660,440*l.* as compared with 2,303,190*l.* in 1896; the considerable surplus of 357,250*l.* is attributable to the good demand from abroad during the year under review.

Respecting the movement of goods which entered the port of ^{Imports.} Bari in the course of 1897, there was an increase in the following classes:—

1. Cotton goods from Austria-Hungary, France, and Germany.
2. Metals (more than double the quantity imported in 1896) from Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Sweden, and Norway.
3. Caustic soda from Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, and Holland.

4. Salted fish from Great Britain, Sweden, and Norway.

5. Sundries from all quarters.

A decrease has taken place in the following articles:—

1. Bricks, paving stones, and building materials from France, Belgium, and Holland, to the advantage of Austria-Hungary and Germany.

2. Grain, vegetables and breadstuffs from Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, Greece, Turkey, and Russia.

3. Flour from all quarters.

As regards exports there was an improvement in the following ^{Exports.} classes:—

1. Olive oil to France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, North and South America, and Africa.

2. Wine to all countries, chiefly to Austria-Hungary, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, America, and Africa.

3. Tartaric materials, mostly to Great Britain and further to Austria-Hungary and France.

4. Hides to Germany, France, and United States of North America.

5. Vegetables and potatoes to Great Britain, Austria-Hungary, United States of North America, and Africa.

6. Seeds to Great Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, and Holland.

A falling-off occurred in the following articles:—

1. Almonds to all countries.

2. Carob-beans (3,200 tons in 1897, against 5,200 tons in 1896) to all countries, owing to the paucity of the crop.

As a whole, the importation of goods by means of the ^{Coasting trade.} coasting trade has diminished as against the previous year.

An improvement is noticed in the following classes :—

1. Colonials, drugs, tobacco.
2. Cotton goods.
3. Metals.
4. Timber.
5. Grain and vegetables.

A decrease has taken place in the following classes :—

Coal, petroleum, mineral oils, caustic soda, dried and salted fish, bricks, paving-stones, and flour.

The export of goods was almost equal to that of the previous year; an increase has taken place in wine, almonds, grain, cereals, vegetables, and potatoes; while olive oils, tartaric materials, hides, figs and other dried fruit, seeds and soap show a decrease.

Shipping and
navigation.

The total number of vessels of all nations that entered the port of Bari in 1897 was 1,485, viz. :—

	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
Sailing	546	24,874
Steam	939	700,238
Total	1,485	725,112

The number of British ships was 80, viz. :—

	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
Sailing	9	1,106
Steam	71	90,272
Total	80	91,378
„ in 1896	69	76,628

British lines
of steamers.

The following lines of British steamers are in regular communication with this port :—Anchor Line, Cunard Line, Leyland Line, Bailey and Leetham Line. The General Steam Navigation Company of London have suspended the service in the course of the year under review.

Puglia
Steamship
Company.

What has been said in the previous report about the Puglia Steamship Company holds good also for the last year; the company maintained its position, and has distributed a dividend of 10 per cent. to its shareholders; three new steamers are in course of construction. Two steamers of the company are plying regularly between Italy and South America.

Mechanical
establish-
ments.

The only mechanical establishment worth mentioning is that of Guglielmo Lindemann, a full description of whose premises was given in the report of last year.

Harbour
accommo-
dation.

The depth of the navigable water in the basin of this port remains unaltered, and no change has taken place in connection with signals, buoys, and lights.

The jetty-head facing Via Pizzoli is almost completed. It was contemplated to construct a railway line uniting the port with the railway station, but since it was feared that this would imperil vital interests of the town, the project has been dropped for the present.

According to the statistics issued by the municipal authorities of Bari, the population of the town on December 31, 1897, was 81,061 including the garrison. Population of Bari.

	Number.
Births	2,901
Deaths	1,517
Marriages	534
Immigrants	566
Emigrants to other parts of Italy	496
„ to foreign countries	5

Paving was continued for about eight months and gave employment to about 100 workmen daily, wages varying from 1s. 3d. to 8s. 6d. per man and day reached a total of 6,038l. Public works.
Paving.

For regulating the sidewalks, &c., a further sum of 2,642l. was expended, and 1,132l. was laid out for the cemetery.

An additional sum of 267l. was voted for the works necessitated by the enlargement of the cemetery. Projected works.

The service of the Tuscan Gas Company left, as before, very much to be desired. As already pointed out in the last report the necessity of substituting electric light for gas becomes every day more pressing, and the question is one worthy to be taken into consideration on the part of private enterprise. Lighting by gas.

The works for the railway to Locorotondo have been taken in hand but are progressing very slowly owing to the difficulties met with by the contractors, "The Subventioned Railway Corporation, Limited," in the acquisition of certain private and municipal grounds over which the railway is intended to run. Railway to Locorotondo.

The Royal Commission appointed by the Government to study and report on the numerous projects filed, visited many towns of this province and also the springs of the River Sele, from which it is intended to conduct the water; but it seems that they have not yet terminated their investigations. In July, 1897, the Government was applied to by two London firms, Robinson, Fleming and Co., and Founders Committee, for the concession to construct the aqueduct in conformity with the project of Mr. Zampori, but apparently no decision has as yet been come to. Aqueduct.

A new branch post and telegraph office has been opened in the town of Bari. Post and telegraph.

REGGIO.

Mr. Vice-Consul Kerrich reports as follows:—

I have to report a sensible improvement in the general condition of trade in my district in the year 1897. Imports and

exports show a slight tendency to increase, and the principal products of the place realised very good prices.

Agriculture.
Olive oil.

Olive oil, although the quantity produced was below that of the year before, sold at 5*l.* 5*s.* per 100 kilos., as against 3*l.* 10*s.* for the same quantity sold the previous year.

Sweet
oranges and
sweet orange
oil.

Owing to the frost which greatly damaged the orange produce of Florida, and to the scanty crop they had in Spain, oranges and essential oil commanded the highest price ever known, especially the orange fruit, which reached 3*l.* per 1,000 fruit. Essential oil was sold at 6*s.* 6*d.* per lb.

Silk breeding
and silk
reeling.

The silk breeding and reeling industries have both been remunerative in the past year and it is generally believed that this year's crop will be more abundant than that of 1897. A sign of the renewed prosperity of these industries is the fact that four new silk reeling factories have been opened in the district.

Briar root.

A fact worth knowing is the existence in this province of the finest briar-wood yet known. A French firm and an Italian have established factories for the trimming of the briar, and are doing an enormous business. The roughly-shaped pipes are principally exported to France and the United States of America.

Wood bricks.

Messrs. Dario Giardi, of Siena, have purchased a large acreage of forest in Calabria with the view of making the trees into blocks for paving. The firm will set up at Branealeone, in the province of Reggio Calabria.

Import.
Coals.

In the last two years the import of coal at this port has been nearly doubled; 22,000 tons was the quantity directly imported from England during 1897.

Ironware.

A considerable trade is done in the province in ironware, especially in kitchen utensils, mainly derived from Germany and Belgium. Great Britain does not come in at all as the cheap quality which sells here is not manufactured there.

Cotton
textures.

Italy, no doubt, has made great progress in cotton textures, but she has not yet reached perfection, and for the genuine English article a good trade could be opened.

Public works.

The harbour works are progressing satisfactorily and the enlargement of the northern side will shortly be commenced. This will cost 28,000*l.* sterling, and will have to be finished within 18 months. The job has been undertaken by Messrs. De Stefano of Messina. A breakwater will be laid in the small roadstead of Villa San Giovanni and the works already commenced under the direction of Signor Vitali, of Rome, will cost 20,000*l.*

British
shipping.

The number of British vessels that visited this port in the year 1897 was of nine steamers measuring 10,426 registered tonnage, as against five steamers measuring 6,180 tons for the year 1896; thus showing an increase of four steamers and 4,246 tons.

General
remarks.

I believe that British trade might be increased in this district, and the means of obtaining it are daily suggested by all the British Consuls abroad. Commercial travellers versed in the language of the country are wanted, for in places like this where the merchant is not conversant with the English language, catalogues are of no use whatsoever.

CASTELLAMARE.

Mr. Vice-Consul Drinkwater reports as follows :—

I beg to enclose return of shipping within this Vice-Consular district for the year 1897, and return of the imports and exports during the same period.

I am sorry not to be able to report any great improvement in Trade. the trade of my district. Owing to the McKinley tariff the maccaroni and green fruit exports have slightly diminished, and next year it is expected that on account of the increasing plantations of oranges and lemons in California and Florida, the green fruit trade will still be less.

The importation of coal is gradually increasing, and is expected Coal. to continue so.

Wheat has again fallen off, mainly owing to the duty having Wheat. been raised from 5 lire to 7 lire 50 c.

This year has also been a disastrous one for the coral fisheries, Coral fisheries. notwithstanding the limited number of boats gone to Sciacca. In no instance have any of them paid their expenses, and in many cases heavy losses have been sustained.

The sponge fisheries have been more fortunate, and have been able to give a good dividend, so much so that next season the fishing boats will be nearly doubled. Sponge fisheries.

The large armoured cruiser "Emanuele Filiberto" was safely launched in September last, and will shortly be towed to Naples to be completed. The two cruisers "Coatit" and "Agordat" are well advanced. Another large battleship will shortly be put on the stocks, but so far no name has yet been given. Royal dockyard.

RETURN of all Shipping in the Vice-Consular District of Castellamare di Stabia during the Year 1897.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
British	1	189	85	96,262	86	96,451
Italian	10	4,971	88	54,166	98	59,137
Greek ... ..	...	...	11	11,844	11	11,844
Austrian ... ..	...	...	10	10,279	10	10,279
German ... ..	...	...	1	1,025	1	1,025
Belgian ... ..	...	...	3	3,737	3	3,737
Norwegian ... ..	...	...	5	6,040	5	6,040
Other nationalities	...	...	4	2,420	4	2,420
Total	11	5,160	207	185,773	218	190,933

CLEARED.

Nationality.	Sailing.		Steam.		Total.	
	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.	Number of Vessels.	Tons.
British	1	189	85	96,262	86	96,451
Italian	8	4,021	88	54,166	96	58,187
Greek ... ..	...	...	11	11,844	11	11,844
Austrian .. ...	...	...	10	10,279	10	10,279
German ... ..	...	...	1	1,025	1	1,025
Belgian ... ..	...	...	3	3,737	3	3,737
Norwegian	5	6,040	5	6,040
Other nationalities	4	2,420	4	2,420
Total	9	4,210	207	185,773	216	189,983

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